

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kaufman. The rejection is traversed in view of the attached Rule 131 Declaration of John N. Kesler demonstrating actual reduction to practice of the present invention prior to Kaufman's priority date of March 16, 2001. Upon review of the Kaufman file history, the undersigned asks that the Examiner note further that the application of Kaufman was expressly abandoned without indication of filing of a continuation application of any kind. Accordingly, no double patenting issues of any kind should apply.

An earnest attempt has been made to respond to each and every ground of rejection advanced by the Examiner. However, should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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